

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 08416 01 OF 02 041336Z
ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 IGA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 HEW-04 /094 W
-----103106 041345Z /41

P 031200Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5562
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 8416

PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR CLARK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, CG
SUBJECT: CABINDAN REFUGEE SITUATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) REP NICK ERJAVEC ADVISED THE EMBASSY ON AUGUST 27 THAT UNHCR HAD FAILED TO MAKE MONTHLY FOOD DELIVERIES TO THE MBUKU TEMBE REFUGEE CENTER DURING JULY AND AUGUST. HE ALSO CARRIED A LETTER FROM IRC-FUNDED MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF) WHICH REQUESTED THAT UNHCR PROVIDE MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE MBUKU TEMBE DISPENSARY. THE REPORTED FAILURE OF UNHCR-ZAIRE ADEQUATELY TO LOOK AFTER THE REFUGEES' NEEDS RAISES AGAIN THE QUESTION OF THE RELIABILITY OF THE UNHCR--AT LEAST UNDER ITS PRESENT LEADERSHIP--TO DIS-TRIBUTE AID TO THE CABINDAN REFUGEES, AND WHETHER IN THE ABSENCE OF IMPROVEMENT WE SHOULD CONSIDER PLACING GREATER EMPHASIS ON WORKING THROUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. FIELD INVESTIGATION DURING AMBASSADOR CLARK'S FORTHCOMING VISIT SHOULD HELP CLARIFY SITUATION.
END SUMMARY.

2. DURING HIS AUGUST 19-26 TRIP TO THE CABINDAN REFUGEE AREAS IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 08416 01 OF 02 041336Z

BAS ZAIRE, IRC REP ERJAVEC WAS TOLD BY DR. BADOUX OF KUIMBA HOSPI-TAL AND BY MSF PHYSICIAN EVELYN JACQZ THAT THE UNHCR REFUGEE CENTER AT MBUKU TEMBE HAD RECEIVED NO FOOD SHIPMENTS SINCE JUNE. BOTH DOCTORS REGULARLY TREAT REFUGEES FROM THE CENTER. ERJAVEC DID NOT OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS FROM THE REFUGEES THEM-SELVES OR LEARN IF OTHER UNHCR REFUGEE CENTERS HAD FAILED TO RECEIVE SHIPMENTS.

3. DR. JACQZ, A FRENCH CITIZEN, IS AN MFS VOLUNTEER ASSIGNED TO KIZU HOSPITAL BY IRC IN ORDER TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT AND ASSISTANCE TO CABINDAN REFUGEES. IN HER LETTER REQUESTING THAT UNHCR PROVIDE MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, SHE REFERS TO THE MBUKU TOMBE DISPENSARY BUILT BY THE REFUGEES AT UNHCR REP NOEL'S URGING IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. UNHCR HAS NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH THE NECESSARY MEDICINES AND SUPPLIES TO STOCK THE DISPENSARY. THE NEARBY KINKONZE MISSION DISTRIBUTED SOME MEDICAL SUPPLIES THROUGH THE DISPENSARY FOR A SHORT WHILE, BUT ENDED THE PRACTICE DUE TO THE INABILITY OF THE REFUGEES TO PAY AND THE LACK OF ANY OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT. ACTING UNHCR REP WOODWARD DID ARRANGE WITH THE GOZ FOR THE SELECTION OF SEVERAL REFUGEES FOR TRAINING AS NURSES TO RUN THIS AND OTHER DISPENSARIES. TRAINING HAS ALREADY BEGUN FOR SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.

4. DR BADOUX HAD WRITTEN TO UNHCR REGARDING THE DISPENSARY AT MBUKU TEMBE ON AUGUST 10. THIS SAME LETTER REMINDED UNHCR OF ACTING REP WOODWARD'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SOME FOOD STOCKS TO KUIMBA HOSPITAL. BADOUX HAS NOT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, RECEIVED A REPLY TO EITHER QUERY. (N.B. LOCAL PRACTICE IS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS TO ACCOMPANY PATIENTS TO THE HOSPITAL IN ORDER TO HELP CARE FOR THEM. THUS BOTH THE FAMILY MEMBERS AND THE PATIENTS MUST BE FED DURING THEIR STAY.)

5. IRC REP ERJAVEC CALLED ON NOEL ON AUGUST 29 TO DISCUSS THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 08416 01 OF 02 041336Z

REPORTED DELIVERY FAILURES AT MBUKU TEMBE. NOEL, WHO HAS BEEN ILL AND ONLY RESUMED HIS DUTIES AUGUST 11, BEGAN BY STATING THAT UNHCR'S FIELD AGENT, AIDR, HAD REPORTED THAT DELIVERIES HAD BEEN MADE IN JULY. NOEL MADE NO COMMENT WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE AIDR REP IN THAT AREA, HOUBBEN, HAD BEEN ILL IN KINSHASA FOR PART OF JULY AND AUGUST AND HENCE COULD NOT HAVE DIRECTED THE DELIVERY EFFORT. REGARDING THE OMITTED AUGUST DELIVERIES, NOEL SAID THAT UNHCR HAD BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY FOODSTUFFS. ERJAVEC NOTED THAT THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES (VOLAGS) HAD DELIVERED FIVE TONS EACH OF RICE AND BEANS TO THE REFUGEES OUTSIDE THE CAMPS DURING JULY AND THAT HE HAD JUST PURCHASED TEN TONS OF BEANS FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THE WEEK. NOEL'S ONLY REPLY WAS THAT THIS WAS "INTERESTING" INFORMATION WHICH HE WOULD "PASS ON". NOEL ALSO PROMISED TO REPORT DR. JACQZ'S AND DR. BADOUX'S REPORTS AND REQUESTS REGARDING THE MBUKU TEMBE DISPENSARY AND KUIMBA HOSPITAL TO HOUBBEN, WHO HAD RETURNED TO BAS ZAIRE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 08416 02 OF 02 041312Z POSS DUPE
ACTION DHA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 IGA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 HEW-04 /094 W
-----103050 041345Z /41

P 031200Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5563
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 8416

PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR CLARK

6. NOEL STATED IN TURN THAT THE TWO NEW REFUGEE CENTERS IN LUKULA ZONE, LUNDU MATENDE AND KIMBENZA-KIMBIYANA, HAD SO FAR ATTRACTED ONLY SIXTY-THREE REFUGEES, ALL OF WHOM WERE AT THE LATTER SITE. HE ADDED THAT IF THE VOLAGS WERE GOING TO FEED THE REFUGEES WHERE THEY ARE LIVING, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THE REFUGEES TO MOVE TO THE REFUGEE CENTERS. HIS OFFICE WAS DREWING UP BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR, AND HE WOULD NOT ASK FOR MORE MONEY WHICH COULD NOT BE SPENT BECAUSE PEOPLE WOULD NOT MOVE TO THE CAMPS. ERJAVEC REPLIED THAT THE VOLAGS WERE ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR JUNE AGREEMENT WITH WOODWARD THAT THEY WOULD DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE THE REFUGEES TO STAY NEAR THE FRONTIER BUT WOULD INSTEAD URGE THEM TO GO TO UNHCR CAMPS. HOWEVER, HE AGREED WITH NOEL THAT ONE COULD NOT MAKE THEM MOVE AGAINST THEIR WILL. NOEL DID AGREE TO A PROPOSAL THAT UNHCR AND THE VOLAGS SHOULD PREPARE AND CIRCULATE PAMPHLETS AMONG THE REFUGEES THAT WOULD ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THEM TO MOVE TO THE UNHCR REFUGEE CENTERS.

7. EMBASSY COMMENTS:

A. WHILE NOEL CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT APPEARS TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 08416 02 OF 02 041312Z POSS DUPE

BE A FAILURE OF UNHCR DELIVERIES TO MBUKU TEMBE CAMP, HIS RESPONSE TO THIS UNFORTUNATE SITUATION IS HARDLY ENCOUAGING. UNLESS THE UNHCR REFUGEE CENTERS PROVIDE ADEQUATE REGULAR FOOD DELIVERIES, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SUPPORT, REFUGEES ARE UNLIKELY TO

MOVE TO THEM IN ANY NUMBERS. THE FEEBLE RESPONSE TO THE OPENING OF THE TWO NEW REFUGEE CENTERS IN THE LUKULA ZONE SEEMS TO REFLECT ADVERSELY ON THE UNHCR'S CREDIBILITY. OVER 7,000 NEW REFUGEES ARRIVED IN THE LUKULA ZONE DURING MAY AND JUNE (KINSHASA 7040) BUT THE TOTAL REFUGEE CAMP POPULATION INCREASED BY ONLY 500.

B. THESE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AGAIN RAISE QUESTIONS RE THE UNHCR'S RELIABILITY FOR ASSURING ADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION OF AID TO THE CABINDAN REFUGEES. PROSPECT FOR IMPROVEMENT WOULD SEEM TO DEPEND INPART ON WHETHER OR NOT THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP OF UNHCR-ZAIRE REMAINS IN PLACE. IF THERE IS NO IMPROVEMENT IN UNHCR'S PERFORMANCE, WE MIGHT CONSIDER A CHANGE IN EMPHASIS AWAY FROM RELIANCE ON THE UNHCR AND TOWARD PROVIDING MORE ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE VOLAGS.

C. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SHOULD NOTE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE WORST OF THE REFUGEES' DIFFICULTIES MAY SOON PASS. MOST OF THE REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AMONG THE LOCAL POPULATION OR ARE LIVING IN THE EXISTING REFUGEE CAMPS. THE IMMINENT START OF THE GROWING SEASON, WHEN MOST REFUGEES CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLANT CROPS, WILL MAKE THEM VERY RELUCTANT TO MOVE. ONCE THESE CROPS ARE HARVESTED, THE REFUGEES' STANDARD OF LIVING SHOULD IMPROVE MARKEDLY. IF THAT PROVES TO BE THE CASE, FUTURE ASSISTANCE MIGHT BEST FOCUS ON MEETING THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES AND THE PROVISION OF DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF MALNUTRITION AND KWASHIORKOR. IRC AND THE OTHER VOLAGS HAVE TRADITIONALLY CONCENTRATED ON THIS TYPE OF ASSISTANCE AND PROBABLY HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF SUPPORTING IT.

D. A MEMBER OF AMBASSADOR CLARK'S REFUGEE ASSESSMENT TEAM AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 08416 02 OF 02 041312Z POSS DUPE

THE EMBASSY'S REFUGEE OFFICER WILL BE MAKING A FIELD TRIP TO THIS AREA DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10-17. THE INFORMATION OBTAINED AT THAT TIME SHOULD CLARIFY THE SITUATION AND ENABLE US TO MAKE A FIRM RECOMMENDATION RE FUTURE ASSISTANCE.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA08416
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770321-0442
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770999/aaaadfpk.tel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9348fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DHA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1392129
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINDAN REFUGEE SITUATION
TAGS: SREF, CG
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9348fb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009